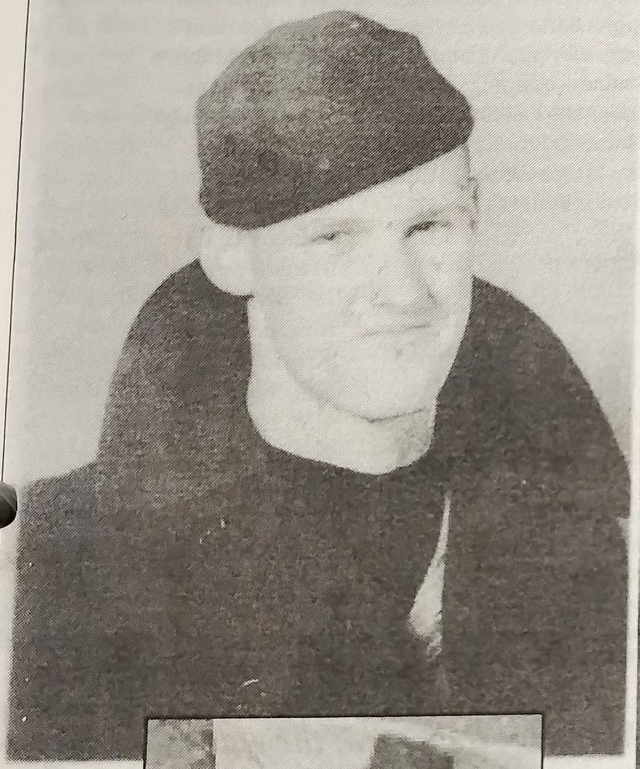
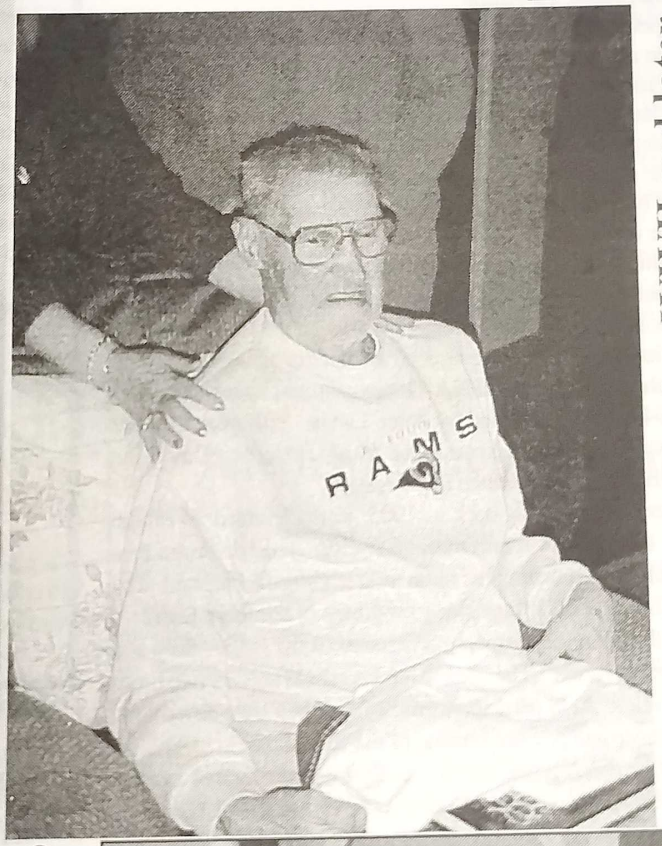
The RedBird Word

Vol. 36 January No. 5

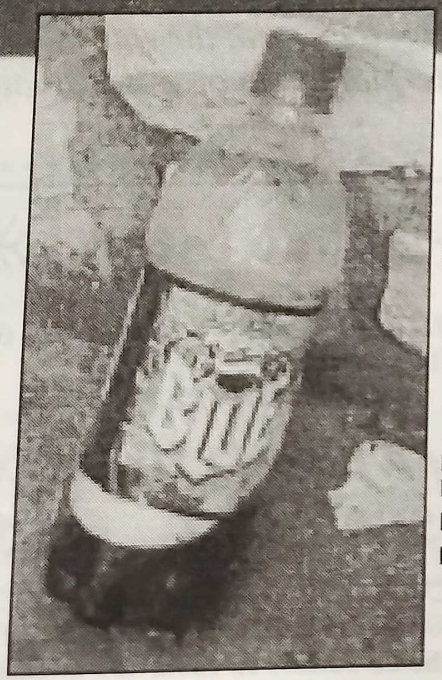
WWII hero receives his diploma





James McGhee during WWII and later at home in Alton receiving his diploma.

Alton High School



Where's Pepsi Blue??

Thespians entertain famous playwright

2200 College Ave., Alton Il. 62002

AHS music program is an undeniable treasure

Andrea Zimmermann, co-editor

One trumpet= $1500; 40 copies of sheet music= $100; an opportunity to participate in a top-rate high school music program= priceless.

The AHS music program is definitely a highlight of the school and community. It has been rated fifth in Class AA, the largest in the state. This ranking is the highest AHS has ever received. The band, choir and orchestra participate in community and statewide events. Music coordinator for the district and band director, David Drillinger, believes it is important to give back to the community.

The department has a long-running history of awards. The Marching 100, whose fiftieth anniversary is soon approaching, has clinched 20 grand champion titles along with a slew of other awards.

The choir has achieved nine consecutive superior ratings from the Illinois High School Association, IHSA, Organizational Contest since first entering in 1994. The choir is led by Anne Davis. This year they are hoping to be selected to sing as a part of the Music Education Day at the Capitol which they have participated in years past.

The orchestra, which dates back to 1905, just celebrated its fiftieth anniversary for the district's fourth through twelfth grade orchestra program. Laura Plummer is entering her ninth year leading the program. The AHS orchestra is one of only three string programs in Southern Illinois.

Every year the entire department participates in the IMEA Solo and Ensemble Contest in March. The contest has been held at AHS two times in the last three years. AHS participants must form their own ensembles, pick their own music and practice outside of the school day.

Just before Christmas break, the entire department savored success through the IMEA All-State selection process. Sixteen musicians were selected to join the state's best high school musicians in Peoria for three days of workshops and a final concert on Saturday. The process began in October of 2002 with 15,000 Illinois high school students auditioning for nine separate district festivals. In the end the number is cut to 1,200 musicians for the All-State level. This year is a record number of participants for AHS.

The symphonic orchestra was selected to play at the IMEA All-State Conference this January. This prestigious opportunity stems from many hours of practice and an excellent audition tape to be selected. They will perform at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, January 31.

The most recent development for the music department is the creation of the AHS Conservatory of Music. They are piloting the program this semester. This will allow students to participate in private music lessons at school. Hopefully, it will expand in the fall to a more permanent program. Although this type of program is common in Chicago, this is the first to venture into Southern Illinois.

With such achievements and a great reputation, it is no wonder the AHS music program is well-known throughout the state, The student body and community should value such a treasure as priceless.

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Mission Statement of RBW

We strive to present the student body with information that is entertaining, diverse and professional.

Don't forget!

Let your sweetie know he or she is loved.

Buy a Cupid's Arrow from any RBW staff for just $.75!

***Voice your opinion of the RedBird Word by sending a letter to the co-editors in room 401 or send an e-mail at RedBird_Word@yahoo.com**

RBW

We know more than you do

January

There is another way to defend myself?

Rickey Militello senior editor

How many of you out there reading this have had someone tell you that they wanted to fight you? The administrators here would like all the students to know that they are not alone. They want students to "*come and tell them*" when having problems with another student. Anyone who does this will not be "Narcing" but will be making AHS a safer place by being *proactive*.

Jason Dandurand, dean of students, defined being *proactive* in this way, " I feel that being *proactive* in terms of handling student disputes means taking a *positive* approach towards solving student differences before the situation escalates into a physical altercation."

I asked Mr. Dandurand what students should do when faced with a problem with another student that is escalating into a very serious situation. He said, " I feel that if students do not feel comfortable handling a situation themselves, then they have to come forward immediately and get an adult involved. They need to seek out a teacher, counselor, social worker, security person, and or administrator to help guide them in making good decisions."

In October this reporter was "jumped" by a group of people who felt that fighting was the only way to solve a problem. I personally feel bad for people like this. Questions come to mind like, "what have their parents been teaching them?"

My parents always told me to avoid fighting if at all possible but to not be afraid to defend myself. So when a group of people came at me there was no way to avoid a fight, so I defended myself or at least tried to. I was jumped, then I was called into a meeting two days later. I was told that I was going to be suspended for five days and spent some time in TEC school.

In my case I didn't know that I was going to be jumped, and after it happened I went and talked to the administrators (Mr. Trapani). I was told that I, along with some others involved, would be punished. I was punished for getting jumped. So I say to you, students of AHS, let's get *proactive*!

Mr. Dandurand hopes that this article promotes the following

- I hope it encourages students to feel comfortable coming to an adult for help.
- I hope it dismisses the notion that if a student asks an adult to get involved that this does not make them a "narc" or "tattle tail."
- I hope it dismisses the perceptions that the only thing administrators care about is assigning consequences. I feel that I speak for all my colleagues when I say, " I would much rather have a student come forward and say they have a problem and we can work together through healthy communication to solve the problem between the students without having to assign consequences."

A letter From Mr. Trapani

Dear Students,

Getting school officals involved before school rule's are broken is more than proactive, it is mature. There will always be a need to stand-up for yourself and not back down throughout one's life.

I want our students to learn that this can be done without violence. It is our responsibility as school officials to help young adults stand up for themselves without breaking rules. This is part of our job and part of what we need to be teaching. A safe school is a school where every student is comfortable coming forward and doing their part to protect each other in a mature manner.

Respectfully Yours,
Philip Trapani

Procedures and roles during peer mediation

* Student comes forward stating he or she has a problem with another student (s).
* The adult gets the individuals involved together for a discussion about the problem (s).
* The adult is there to be a neutral party and guide students through the process. The adult is NOT there just to find out who gets a consequence but is there to help student who need help.
* Students need to engage in active listening. They should try to put themselves in "the other students shoes". This helps them gain a perspective on the problem that they did not have at the beginning of the altercation.
* Students need to be honest with themselves and with all parties involved.
* Students need to come to a consensus with one another about things they will do to prevent another problem from happening again.
* If a student violates the agreement then that student will receive a consequence (s).

EDITOR'S NOTE:

If you have any questions about being proactive contact Mr. Trapani in his office or at 474 -2700 ext. 701. You can slso contact Mr. Dandurand in his office or at 474-2700 ext. 310

When are things going to change?

Kenny Ross, news editor

If you ask a random AHS student what they think is the gravest problem facing our school, you will get a variety of answers. Anything from sex, violence, deteriorating facilities and drugs could be brought up. Yet, there is one problem that stands above the rest and has for many years, racism.

To be perfectly blunt, racism is a problem that is around and has been around for years, though many people would brush it off and claim that our school still doesn't suffer from its ugly scars. To say we do would be to admit that the little world we live in called Alton High is not as perfect a place as some would claim.

The truth is our school has always had two parallel societies in it, one white and one black. We have never really fused ourselves into one group; there has always been a distinction between those with dark skins and those with light skins. Whenever there is a fight isn't the first question, "was it black and white?"

How many times during the day does the average student hear "White Boy" or "Nigger" uttered? It is almost like we are desensitized to all the ignorance we see everyday. No one wants to speak of it either.

Possibly some people just don't want to notice the problem, or others can't see it because they live a sheltered life. Anyone who can just open his eyes and see through the mist can see divisions that run through our school and society. It is a problem, and it is time that something is done to fix it.

We, as a society functioning at this school, need to learn how to look beyond the color of skin and make judgments based on the character of each person. We are all the same on the inside regardless of the color of our skin. Black or white we all go to school everyday and face the blissful ignorance of racism.

The reason why I bring this subject is because we are about to enter Black History Month in February. Every year it always seems like this is the time of the year when racial tension is at its peak.

Instead of talking about past oppression on both sides of the color barrier, possibly this year the Alton High faculty and students could talk about the present problem we face and hopefully the future answers to them. It is time for us all to unite and fight the hate that we all, black and white, experience everyday.

Do you see what I see ?

Danel Hinkle

As students walk the halls at Alton High they can't help but notice the differences in the boys' and girls' restrooms. The doors in the boys' rooms are open at all times where as there is never a girls' restroom with the door propped open. Why is this the way it is? Is there a particular reason for this or is it just some random little thing the school does that has no real point?

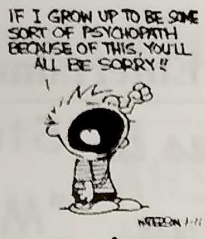
Is there any reason that girls deserve more privacy than boys? It is assumed by many people that guys really do not care if they have the privacy, but trust me, guys do not want people looking at them while they are going to the restroom.

All the restrooms in the Main Building are just long thin rooms that a person can see all the way to the back of from the hallway. It is easily possible to see someone in there unless they are almost pressed right up against the urinal, or are in the stalls with the door closed. Some people might say that everyone does one of those things anyway, but that is because that is what has to be done if you do not want to be seen by all the people in the halls.

If the boys' restroom doors are always open to try to make sure they are behaving, then that would just make the whole thing a whole double standard. There is no reason that girls deserve any more trust than the guys do. Having the doors open for the guys to try to stop them from smoking in the bathroom might work, but in that case it just means the girls can still get away with smoking in the bathroom.

This problem seems very easy to solve. All it takes is to do the same to both the boys and the girls. Obviously, that all the students would prefer just to have the doors closed for the privacy, but if the school will not let us do that, it is okay. Then the girl's doors should be opened. That solution would not make everyone happy, but at least it would be equal.

"Choose your friends by their character and your socks by their color. Choosing your socks by their character makes no sense, and choosing your friends by their color is unthinkable."
-Anon.

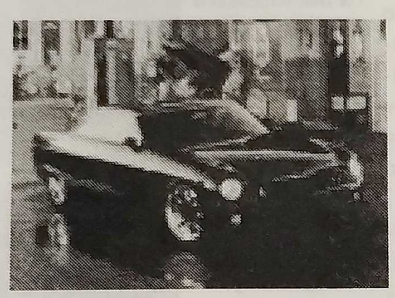


Entertainment

2003 Auto Show rolls into downtown St. Louis

by Carl McMullen, entertainment editor

Saint Louis Auto Dealers Association welcomes the 2003 St. Louis Auto Show to America's Center in time for the first shipment of 2003 models. The hottest event of the season for car buffs comes to St. Louis from Wednesday, January 29, to Sunday, February 2.



The Ford Forty-Nine Coupe, one of many concept cars on display at the show./www.saintlouisautoshow.com

Many local car dealership representatives will be on hand to answer all questions about the new models. Over 500 new models are expected, along with various concept cars including the Ford Forty-Nine Coupe. Cars, trucks and vans of all shape and price range will fill the Cervantes Convention Center and adjacent Edward Jones Dome.

The sponsor of the show is offering numerous opportunities for car enthusiasts to walk home with free merchandise. The show even offers a chance to win a 2003 Chevrolet Malibu or a trip for two to the Cardinals Spring Training complex in Jupiter, Florida. Local radio stations 102.5 KEZK, 93.7 WIL and KSHE 95.5 will broadcast live on selected dates during the show.

Hours for the show are noon-9 p.m., Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. on Saturday, and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets for the show are $8 for adults and $5 for children (6-12.) Children under 6 are free.

Ricci draws rave reviews for role in *Prozac Nation*

by Marla McKay

Elizabeth Wurtzel's 1994 bestselling memoir, *Prozac Nation: Young and Depressed in America*, will be released in movie form in March of this year, simply titled *Prozac Nation*.

Prozac Nation, directed by Erik Skjoldbjaerg, focuses on a young woman with chronic depression. The main character is Elizabeth Wurtzel (played by Christina Ricci), and the movie centers around her first year as an aspiring writer, college student and Rolling Stone music critic at Harvard University during the 80s.

Wurtzel attempts to deal with her clinical depression, self-destructive suicidal tendencies and outrageous mood swings. She also struggles with rationalizing her divorced parents--an absent, self-absorbed father, and a crazy, overbearing and lonely mother.

Through her illness, Wurtzel battles a fear of rejection, yet alienates everyone close to her, including her best friend. Wurtzel also turns to recreational drug use with her first love, Noah.

After a visit to Dr. Diana Sterling (played by Anne Heche,) Elizabeth is prescribed Prozac, the cure-all wonder drug of the era. Dr. Sterling's intention is to help Wurtzel gain perspective and rebuild a solid identity.

Reviewer Kirk Honeycutt fell in love with Ricci's performance. "Ricci has mesmerizing eyes...she uses her eyes not only to reflect the emotional turmoil but also the anger at her self-destructive actions."

Prozac Nation has already been released in Canada and received mixed reviews. The movie will open in selected cities in the U.S.

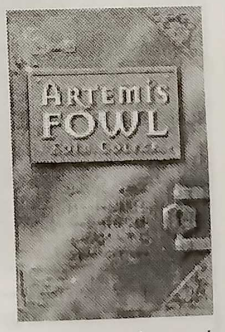
Discover Artemis Fowl, a boy of mystery and intrigue

Audrey Wildhagen

The novella *Artemis Fowl*, by Eoin Colfer, has been called "the next *Harry Potter*" by reviewers and readers everywhere. The book does have a certain element of fantasy in it, and Colfer's lyrical writing style makes the book easy enough for younger readers to grasp, but with enough quirky witticisms to keep an older audience entertained. Colfer also manages to add a sense of mystery, and even a hint of sci-fi to it. His clever use of technological devices ranges from the Internet, to a LEP issue buzz gun.

Artemis Fowl proves early in the book to be a perfect shoe in for a James Bond villain. He is a genius, a prodigy, a millionaire, and a criminal mastermind. The catch? He is only twelve years old.

Why would Artemis need all these qualities? He is after what most every classic villain wants: Money. Despite his apparent wealth, he seeks to fully restore his family's fortune. The unusual thing is his manner of acquiring it. He tries to kidnap a fairy in hopes of winning a hefty sum of ransom money, but unfortunately, he ends up abducting Holly Short, a feisty fairy woman who also happens to be a captain in an underground police force called the LEPrecon Unit. Artemis seems to have the Fairy Folk under his thumb, that is, until things start to go horribly wrong. . .



Arctic Incident, the second novel released in 2002./ www.artemisfowl.com

Concert Choir entertains in time for Valentine's Day

Sarahjay Whitney, co-editor

Everybody always asks the same question, "What's there to do here in Alton?" They always receive the same answer, "Nothing!"

This drought of entertainment becomes more urgent come Valentine's Day. You want to do something unique with your special someone without going broke for the next three months. Dinner and a movie won't work because that's what you do every weekend. Roses are pretty, but they die. Chocolate never lasts long and stuffed animals won't do because they already have a million of them. Why don't you give them a memory they'll never forget?

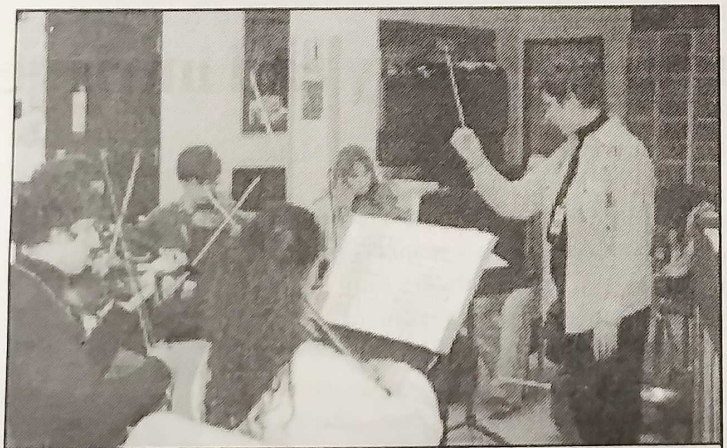
On February 13, the Alton High Choir and Symphonic Orchestra will be flirting with the masterpiece, "Gloria" by Vivaldi. The romance begins at 7:30 pm in First Presbyterian Church. Admission is $5.00 per person.

Alton High can't compete with the St. Louis Symphony, but the price is right. Alton High Choral Director, Mrs. Davis said, "We're one of the few high schools in the area who has the ability to perform huge works involving choir and orchestra."

Other serenades sung by Concert Choir will include "Alleluia" by Ralph Manuel, "I will be Earth" by Gweneth Walker and "Two Japanese Proverbs" by Gary Kent Walth. Advanced Choir will be performing, but their pieces are yet to be announced.

Another highlight of the evening will be the debut of the Men's Ensemble which is comprised of the tenors and basses from Concert Choir. Their songs are yet to be announced as well.

The Alton High Music Department anticipates a delightful evening and hopes that you'll give your special someone their Valentine gift with the sweet sounds of Vivaldi instead of the battle cries of Tolkien's Orch-kai.



Mrs. Davis rehearses with Symphonic Orchestra quartet who will be accompanying Concert Choir on "Gloria." Photo courtesy of Katie Cline.

Student Director critiques "Man Who Came to Dinner"

Sarahjay Whitney, co-editor

AHS Theater Department entertained its audiences on January 24 and 25 in the school auditorium. The RedBird Word sat down with Brandon Krepel, the student director of "The Man Who Came to Dinner," and asked him to give his opinion about the play.

Cast members show off their talent for the RedBird Word camera. Photo by Sarahjay Whitney.

RBW: Who do you think has improved the most?

BK: Jeff Brandt came in [to the play] inexperienced, and he was able to follow Ms. Keller's direction and did a terrific job.

RBW: What are you the most excited about?

BK: This cast is full of new faces. It is exciting to know that when we [Theater Department] need a large cast we have the interest to make it happen.

RBW: About which parts were you most worried?

BK: The amount of new actors could be alarming to some, but I have been confident with their ability.

RBW: Why did you want to be stage director?

BK: I've never been a student director before. I thought it would be a good experience before pursuing theater in college. However, I do miss being on stage.

RBW: What's your job?

BK: I sit out in the audience and give my two cents worth.

RBW: Which character do you like the best?

BK: Banjo. He's just a funny guy. I like his humor and loyalty.

RBW: What is it about Sheriden Whiteside that makes people like him even though he's brutally sarcastic?

BK: He's one of those people who are blessed with charisma, and he has a good concept of how the mind works. He pushes people to the line, but he has a way of manipulating people's perceptions of where the line is.

Processing foreign journalists in Iraq

Sarah Gill

Journalism in a foreign country, such as Iraq, with an ongoing war is supervised and watched very closely.

There are several procedures that need to be done before a journalist can report in a foreign country. First, a visa is needed to report from a foreign country and the visa is very difficult to come by. Resumes and passports have to be sent in advance in order for eligibility to be determined. Probing forms also need to be filled out upon approval before a trip to the Iraqi embassy in Amman to see if the application has been accepted.

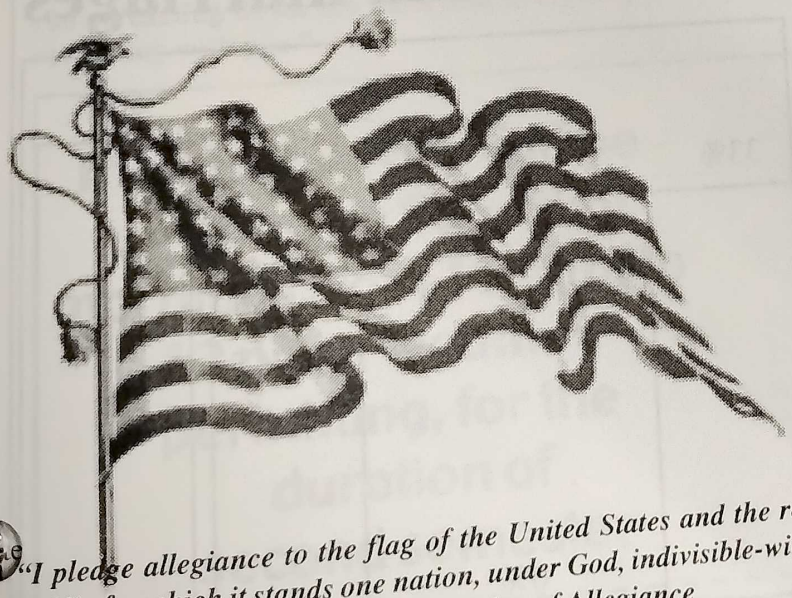
To add to the insecurities of a foreign journalist, visas are only issued for a period of about two weeks. They will not be renewed if a journalist has offended the governing authorities. This happened to ABC News' Sheila MacVicar. After spending nine years in Iraq, she could not get her visa renewed after the 1995 referendum.

Joshua Hammer from *Newsweek* said, "A journalist is consequently severely restricted."

New York Times reporter Barbara Crossette said, "From the moment you arrive, freedom of movement is an irrelevant concept."

There is more to the field of journalism than just coming up with a story. It can mean risking one's life. Journalists reporting in Iraq have to watch their steps at all times and are often manipulated. Most of the time they end up covering something related to government arranged tours, such as treatment of children in hospitals, or the Martyr's Monument, a memorial to 400 women.

Foreign reporting has become very dangerous. When seeing a reporter on TV from Iraq, think about the dangers they might be going through to report this information.



"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States and the republic for which it stands one nation, under God, indivisible-with liberty and justice for all." ~ The Pledge of Allegiance

AHS students start to say the pledge

Andrea Zimmermann, co-editor in chief

Just as the new year comes, AHS also ushered in a new era. The students and faculty began saying the Pledge of Allegiance on the first day back from Christmas break, January 6.

The faculty and staff united on the issue at a previous meeting. However, they agreed there must be standards for respect of the flag. First, recital of the pledge is not required. Students may be excused from participating for religious purposes if a note is brought from home. All other students must at least stand in respect.

"It doesn't bother me. I don't say [the pledge]. I just have to stand there for ten seconds," said Daniel O'Dell, senior.

Mr. Trapani decided the pledge should be student-led everyday. Currently, students from the AFJROTC classes are leading the student body in the pledge over the intercom.

"It is my wish to have everyone recite the pledge [over the intercom] before leaving high school," Mr. Trapani said. "Of course, if someone doesn't want to, it isn't mandatory."

The law, passed on May 17, 2002, mandates that public and charter schools recite the pledge at least once a week. It also demands that schools set aside one day a year to discuss civics and the reason for taking the pledge.

I pledge allegiance to the flag. Or do I?

Kenny Ross, news editor

Patriotism has become more of an issue since September 11th. Saying the pledge has become a way for Americans to unite and show their loyalty to their nation. However, not everyone believes in the good of saying the pledge. Some believe that it is unconstitutional.

The whole controversy started when the 9th Circuit Court passed a ruling banning the saying of the pledge in public schools. The court took issue with the two words in the pledge, "Under God."

The court believed the pledge infringes on the founding principle of a separation of church and state. Some atheists and agnostics have taken issue with the two words, as do many Hindus and Buddhists in the U.S.

Not everyone agrees with the court's ruling though, including most lawmakers in Washington, including Senator Charles Grassley who says, "The decision is crazy and simple outrageous."

It remains to be seen if any long term action to either change the pledge or overturn the court's decision will be taken.

Oil shortages force a rise in gas prices

Zac West

As young drivers, high school students any things to worry about while on the road, and now they may have to question whether or not they will even be on the road. Prices of gasoline have fluctuated greatly since September 11, 2001. It is speculated that prices may rise as high as nearly $3.00 a gallon by the end of winter. With the rising prices, some kids may not be able to pay for all the gas they need.

The average price of gasoline per gallon rose 5.6 cents. The national average for the gas price has risen to $1.47 dollars a gallon. A six week long gas strike in Venezuela has been the main cause for the rise in prices. Venezuela accounts for over twelve percent of oil imports for the United States. The average gas prices have only jumped about a penny from two months ago, but a new increase seems inevitable.

A survey done by Trilby Luhndburg, a publishing company, checked prices at more than 7,000 gas stations in all 50 states.. Gas prices were lowest in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where the average was $1.29 per gallon. The most expensive place in the United States to buy gas the past two months has been Hawaii with prices averaging nearly $1.70 per gallon.

Stephanie Dykeman, senior, was asked how she felt about the rise in prices, " I have a job, but I don't work that often, so I don't really have the extra money to be paying too much more for gas, especially with my upcoming college expenses."

Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has decided to increase American oil production by 1.5 million barrels a day to offset the Venezuelan strike. OPEC feels that the additional oil production will help, but they do not expect immediate results.

This price increase will definitely have a great impact on student drivers. A lack of financial support, and a need to move, may make for a few more open parking spots in the Pit.

Women cause changes in schools and workplaces

Zac West

The United States Department of Education projects that females will make up at least 60 percent of the national student body by the year 2010. Graduation rate for female students is slightly higher than that of males. In the not-so-distant future women may be receiving more than two thirds of all graduate degrees given in the United States. According to the National Center of Policy Analysis, women outnumber men in graduate schools and almost equal to male enrollment in all professional schools.

Gail Ellis, Dean of Admissions for Suffolk University Law School, noticed a shift in the number of female students some time ago. In 1967, the law school only consisted of 2.3 percent female students. By 1975, female students made up 23 percent of female students at Suffolk Law. Last year female enrollment was up to 56 percent at the school.

Law offices have recently seen an increase in the number of female employees. For the mothers, a number of firms now offer leaves of absence, job shares, part-time work, and flexible work schedules, and this gives mothers a chance to form their own schedule. Many women are choosing another option in law: starting their own firms. This made possible by the low start-up costs for law firms.

Discovery Communications in Bethesda, Maryland has already noticed a change in the workplace. Director of Communications Kitty DiMartino reports that 64 percent of the workplace is made up by women. This is paralleled by the fact that 50 percent of their executive positions are held by female employees.

It will not be long before the workplace's male to female ratio may begin to change corporate life as a whole. After a few years it may be the mans turn to make that long struggle back to the top of the ever-changing corporate ladder.

Teacher speaks out against interracial marriages

Zac West

In October of 2002, Jendra Loeffoelman, an eighth grade teacher at a Crystal City, Missouri middle school, was asked by a student about her opinion on interracial marriages. In her answer she made it known to the whole class that she was opposed to the idea.

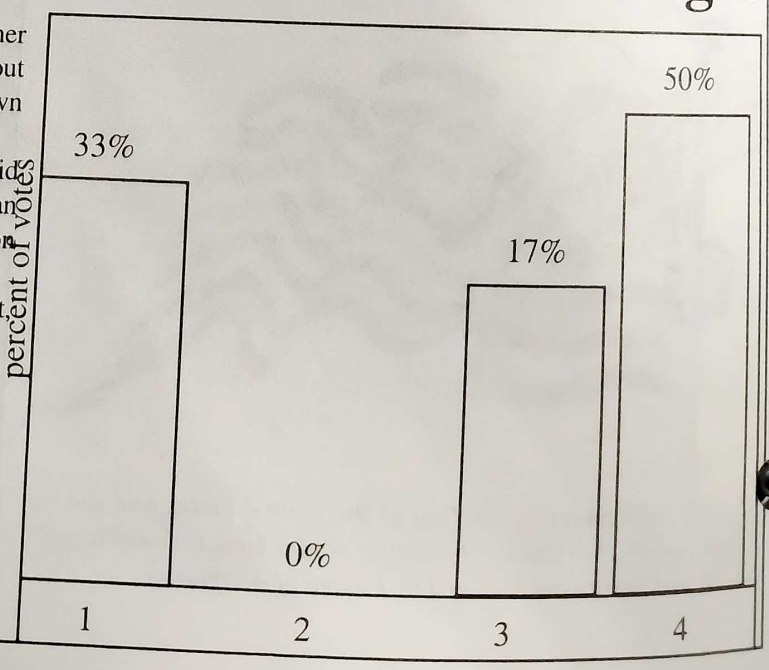
There was at least one mixed child in the classroom when she said this. This situation got back to the school board, and Ms.. Loeffoelman is now under review. The school district plans to make a decision on her future by mid-February.

I randomly selected twenty teachers to poll on what they thought, and to the right are the results to the poll.

* * * * * *

There were four choices: (1) The school board is wrong, and the teacher has a right to her opinion; (2) A teachers opinion should reflect the school district; (3) The teacher was wrong, and she should face consequences; and (4) other.

Most of the teachers that chose "other" seemed to be of the same opinion. They all agreed that the teacher should have changed the subject



Theaterfest proves to be festive event

by Sarah Whitney, co-editor and Courtney Schien, mangaging editor

On January 9, 10, and 11, twelve Thespians along with Mrs. Holthaus and Mr. Davis traveled to the University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign for the 28th Annual Theaterfest. It was the virgin voyage for all twelve students. They were able to go to workshops, lectures, or plays.

Sophomore James Winters said, "I have a whole new light on Shakespeare. It was amazing the way the actors took the old Shakespeare and made this completely new rendition of it. They were able to pull off their performance so well, it made me jealous."

The workshops varied from Hip Hop Funk Dance to Playwriting. Plays were featured from schools all over the state ranging from "Hamlet", to " Dearly Departed", to "The 12 Angry Jurors." Schools made it to state by sending a letter of request for an auditorium. Plays are accepted until time and available space runs out. There is no competition between the schools. "It's a great way to improve your acting talents and meet other actors and actresses who are interested in the same things as you," junior Chris Hesh said.

Alton High's Thespian Troupe (also the oldest Troupe in the state of Illinois) ran on 4 hours of sleep or less from 6 a.m. - 12 p.m. due to the amount of excitement that continued through the day and into the wee hours of the morning.

When asked about her favorite thing about Theaterfest, sophomore Julie Whitney commented, "You just got to be yourself. You weren't like uptight and closed. You could run screaming down the halls and everybody would start screaming with you."

The AHS Library will be open on Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., weather permitting, for the duration of second semester

~ ~

February Facts

Feb. 1- Saturday Scholars	
Meet in AHS Pit	7:30 a.m.
Feb. 4- Biology Club	
room 313	7:30 a.m.
Minority Excellence	
Library	3:30 p.m.
Fellowship of Christian Athletes	
room 512	7 p.m.
Feb. 5- National Honor Society	
Library	7:30 a.m.
Upward Bound	
room 114	3 p.m.
Feb. 6- Quill and Scroll	
room 401	3:05 p.m.
Amnesty International	
room 515	3 p.m.
Feb. 8- Saturday Scholars	
Meet in AHS Pit	11:50 a.m.
Feb. 11- Minority Excellence	
Library	3:30 p.m.
Feb. 12- National Honor Society	
Library	7:30 a.m.
Upward Bound	
room 114	3 p.m.
Feb. 13- Amnesty International	
room 515	3 p.m.
Feb. 15- Sweetheart Dance	
AHS Cafeteria	8-11 p.m.
Saturday Scholars	
Meet in AHS Pit	12:15 p.m.
Feb. 17- Minority Excellence	
Library	3:30 p.m.
Fellowship of Christian Athletes	
room 512	7 p.m.
Feb. 18- Minority Excellence	
Library	3:30 p.m.
Fellowship of Christian Athletes	
room 512	7 p.m.
Feb. 19- National Honor Society	
Library	7:30 a.m.
Upward Bound	
room 114	3 p.m.
Feb. 21- Speeches and Voting	
from and for Class Officer Candidates	
Feb. 26-National Honor Society	
Library	7:30 a.m.
Upward Bound	
room 114	3 p.m.

** This Calendar is subject to change without notice*

AHS honors one of its newest, proudest grads

Alex McMullen, copy editor, and Rickey Militello, editor

As an inspiration for all at AHS, James "Jim" McGhee's story is one that will surely be remembered for its timeless sense of life-long dedication. His story proves that hard work still reaps its own rewards. From his years of service in the Navy to his commitment as a providing father, Mr. McGhee has made an undeniable impression on those who meet him and those who have read about him.

The celebration in which he was given his AHS diploma in December is a mere curve on the road that is his life. As a teenager entering the Navy, his mother granted him the paperwork needed to join. After the War, he found work but was pressed for money with the government's limitations on Veterans' benefits.

He still found the time to raise his children to honor the opportunity to receive an education. With his encouragement, all of his children sought their diplomas. His advice lives on through his grandchildren, and all have sought education beyond high school.

"It's something he's always wanted." -Addie McGhee

Jim McGhee in hospice care with his loving wife, Addie McGhee. Photo by Rickey Militello.

Mrs. McGhee's perspective

With Mr. McGhee in hospice care now, the RedBird Word interviewed his wife of ten years, Addie, spoke candidly about the challenges he has faced and the perseverance that has led him to overcome them.

Redbird Word: Who was an influence in (Mr. McGhee's) life at an early age?

Addie McGhee: I would have to say his father, who was a carpenter. His childhood was anything but typical, but his father remained a constant in his early life. He took notice of his father's hard work, and he even wanted to follow in his father's footsteps as he began his education.

RBW: How was he characterized as a youth?

AM: His teachers noticed his shyness early on. Even with preparation, he struggled to recite The Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner by Samuel Taylor Coleridge because of his shyness toward his classmates.

RBW: What does he recall most about his experience in the Navy?

AM: He likes to describe his ship, the U.S.S. Trinity. It housed 600 men in 1944, which was when he joined the Navy. The ship was used in the First World War and was decommissioned soon afterward. It was commissioned again for the Second World War and sent to the Pacific. He said good-bye to his ship and the Navy in 1946.

RBW: What advice does he share with you and his daughters, Janet and Jackie?

AM: Even without his diploma, he stressed the importance of school and the need to get an education. You could also tell by his actions that his family was his main concern. He made sure we always had a sense of family.

RBW: What advice would he have for today's youth?

AM: I think he would say to not be afraid to work hard. Things should be worked for, not given to. By his actions, students can remember that if they take the time, their dreams are attainable.

His daughter's perspective

After Mrs. McGhee's interview, the Redbird Word spoke with one of his daughters, Janet Presley. She has worked as a childcare specialist, and many of the children taught under her have excelled at AHS.

During her interview, she recalled her youth when her father would take his family to Clearwater Lake in Piedmont, Missouri. "One thing dad never had was a shortage of friends at the lake," Janet commented. "Every time I go down there the locals ask me how my dad's doing. They loved the stories he would tell. His sense of humor was never lost, even now," she said.

Whether fueling tankers for the Navy, catching a 13 pound catfish or raising his children, Mr. McGhee never lost sight of his dream. Even after several seizures and the clock nearing 2 am on the night of his celebration, he still requested his diploma for a brief viewing. The alumnus of the Class of 1945 had everything he needed; his family, his friends, and the dream that became a reality.

"Operation Recognition" gives the Greatest Generation another deserving memory

Alex McMullen, copy editor

The concept of giving honorary diplomas to veterans has become a popular decision by many State Legislature branches. Dozens of states, from Alaska to West Virginia, use the concept under the name "Operation Recognition." Once commissioned, the bill immediately had an influx of applicants.

Several years ago, Bob McKean, the director of Massachusetts Veteran Memorial Cemeteries, envisioned a program that would rightfully reward veterans who dropped out of high school to join the military with an honorary diploma. This plan came after he witnessed a special ceremony for several veterans in Woburn, Massachusetts. He took his concept to Dr. Michael Pregot, the schools superintendent of Gardner, Massachusetts, and immediately found support for it.

"(Veterans) learned psychology when their comrades died in their arms, and history-they didn't learn it; they lived it." -Bob McKean

Eventually, the concept received major support from networks like CNN and National Public Radio. McKean hosted his first ceremony for veterans in May of 1999 with 39 individuals receiving diplomas. All were veterans of World War II, and they used the opportunity to reward others as well.

Many of the veterans became history teachers for the high schools that honored them. "Lot's of guys went into the classrooms and gave living history lessons," McKean said in an interview with the Military Advantage, a publication featuring news for veterans. "This program is a win for veteran's and their families, a win for cities' and towns' school systems, and a big win for students."

After their lectures, some veterans even attended an honorary senior prom. The proms were reflective of their respective high school years, and they acted as opening acts for the graduations. Along with WWII, the program notices the work of veterans from World War I. Also included in 2001, the Korean War period became the most recent addition.

Jim McGhee as a young sailor. Photo courtesy of Addie McGhee.

During WWII, the U.S. government placed many Japanese Americans in relocation camps. Like many veterans, they were not given the opportunity to receive a completed high school education. Some even went into the U.S. Armed Forces to show their loyalty to their country. With this in mind, Bud Nobili, Placer County, California Superintendent of Schools, made the unprecendented move of extending the program to these citizens. Those eligible simply need proof of their time spent in a relocation camp.

Governor Bob Holden welcomed the Missouri chapter of the program in 2001. He officially signed the measure on July 12 and adopted several guidelines initiated by McKean's work. With applications approved by the Missouri Veterans Commission, the information is sent to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. When received, the information will be taken apart and printed as a modern diploma.

To be eligible for the program, a WWII veteran must have been honorably discharged from the military between September 16, 1940 and December 31, 1946. Korean veterans can apply if their enlistment was between June 25, 1950 and January 31, 1955. Several other conditions regarding enlistment also are considered for the program. The final step for eligibility is to provide verification of military service. Veterans who already achieved their General Education Diploma, or GED, are eligible as well.

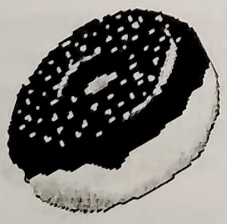
Note: With the completion of this story, James "Jim" McGhee died at his home with his family at his side. In essence, this story truly does represent him since it was something he always wanted. He was buried in his Alton High School sweater.

DUKE BAKERY

819 HENRY ST.

ALTON

462-2922



Dance team paving the way to state competition

Ashley Freeman

The AHS dance team is very excited about its upcoming 2003 competition season. The varsity squad competed with its kickline to Tina Turner's " Proud Mary." The junior varsity squad took two routines to competition: "The Way You Make Me Feel" and "Wild Women Do."

"I am so excited about this routine, and I am sure that we will do awesome at the state competition," said sophomore Sarah Joyce, who choreographed the kickline.

The dancers not only work intensely on their competition routines but also on the routines for the basketball season. They must learn and perfect about seven or eight dances just for the games.

The dance team has had a great year so far. They received two superior ratings at the Showstoppers Camps of America held at McKendree College this past summer. " We did so well at camp last summer. I think the squad truly achieved something that I'm sure will carry over into competition," said varsity pommer Molly Sivia.

The squad has worked very hard this year. They have spent many long Saturdays practicing hard for up to four hours. "A kickline is one of the most exhausting types of routines to do, but winning big at competition makes all the hard work worth it," said varsity co-captain Ashley Cox.

The dance team just performed at the first competition, January 11 at Mascoutah High School. The varsity squad placed first in the Class AAA kick category. Junior varsity placed second with both of their routines.

Varsity Coach Casey Hamberg is pleased with the dedication of the girls. " I am very proud of the squad this year. They have worked so hard, and I know that they will do fantastic at the competitions this year."

The ups, downs and insides of being a lawyer

Blair Conner

Being a lawyer takes a large amount of education and tenacity. It is a career of hard work and interaction with people. This produces a challenging and rewarding job.

The first step in becoming a lawyer is earning a degree from a four year university of college. Then, a standardized test known as the Law School Admission Test, LSAT, is taken. The school then looks at grades, the LSAT and other extracurricular activities when determining admission. From there, law school demands three or four more years of studying.

After graduating from law school, a 'Juris Doctor' is given. This means that the Bar exam can now be taken. The Bar exam in California is made up of six hours on three consecutive days. Once passed, the new lawyer can practice in the state where he took the test.

Attorney Dave Rosenthal said, "Once you have absorbed this knowledge, you have the ability to deal with just about any situation in lieu whether you practice [law] or not."

Lawyers have many fields to consider when beginning their career. The two main categories and Civil Law and Criminal Law. Many criminal lawyers work for the local District Attorney. In this category, lawyers will prosecute, represent the state or defend those who cannot afford their own lawyer. Civil Law covers areas such as business, corporate, environmental, and many others. Many civil attorneys begin working as an associate in a firm.

Rosenthal agrees that he loves the trill after winning a big case. "It is a good feeling when you win a case for a client after a long fight. Hard work on a case can help pay off in a favorable verdict. However, with defeat, lessons will be learned," said Rosenthal. "Some people like the entertainment of court battle. Some like to fight for poor people. Some like to negotiate for businesses. The ways in which legal training can be used are endless."

Two seniors choose military life over college

Andrea Zimmermann, features editor

Seniors Kayla Schutz and Louis Robinson, both 18, have decided to sacrifice the next four years of their lives for the United States Military.

Schutz, who leaves for Paris Island, South Carolina on January 27 for basic training, is looking to make a career out of the Marines. "I'm really excited about about starting [training] in a few weeks. I've been running two miles three times a week," Schutz said.

Schutz began to consider the military life soon after September 11, 2001. "The fact that somone could do that to our country made me want to [join the Marines.] I wanted to help. September 11 made me very mad," said Schutz. "It's not right for someone to do something like that to so many innocent people."

Robinson plans to enlist int he Navy sometime after graduation. He definitely has some background in the military. His mother is currently a member of the Navy Reserve. His brother, 22, and sister, 20, are both soldiers in the Army.

"I know that if the U.S. went to war my brother and sister would be the first to go. My mother would be activated next. That left my little brother, who's ten, and myself," said Robinson. "My brother would go down to Tennessee with my aunt and I would be alone, so, I thought, why not join up?"

Many recent high school graduates find themselves in a similar situation as Robinson. The U.S. military offers benefits that some people couldn't afford for themselves. Both Schutz and Robinson intend to continue their education through the military.

Robinson has also decided to do physical therapy while in the Navy. This will allow him to learn his occupation early.

"I think the military is great for people who don't know what to do with their lives. It sets you up financially and for life," said Robinson.

Hats off to early graduates

Megan Williams, reporter

On January 17, many AHS students said their last goodbyes to the high school as they knew it. Between 100 to 150 seniors graduated in January at the end of the semester. They have plans to either continue with their education, work, or just have fun.

Many students are continuing their education at LCCC until the next fall. There are special requirements for early graduation. The student must have accumulated at least 20 academic credits in the appropriate areas and have met all of the required classes such as American Government and Health.

Now, here's what the juniors have wanted. There have been a lot of rumors on campus about this being the last year this could happen. That is not true.

"It is two economical states being forced together. The student wants to work and get ahead but the school is losing a lot of money. So far, there is not a change being planned," said Mrs. Mundy, academic counselor.

"I am glad to be moving on to better things and have finally finished. I would like to leave some advice for the freshmen. Be true to yourself. It's the only way you will get by." said Brandy Robinson, senior.

New AHS counseling program aids students

Keegan Thompson

Alton High is preparing select students to become part of a peer-support and crisis-prevention program AHS students. The program, called Life Savers, is a team approach to help teenagers cope healthily with the challenges of drugs and alcohol, peer and family relationships, sexual issues, academic problems, aggression, anxiety and suicide. This program is active in fifteen other area high schools.

This is not the first year that Life Savers have been brought to the Alton School District, but it has been a dormant issue for some time. The newly picked Life Savers will attend a retreat at the end of the month to learn exactly how to handle peer problems.

"I think it is a great way to help students," said future Life Saver Devin Banks.

This program is open to the whole school and is run by the student body's peers and friends. If any student feels that they have a problem and need to talk to someone, they need to see an advisor or a Life Saver. They will help you set up a meeting to talk.

Unfortunately, Life Savers will not be an active program until training is finished, private rooms are set up, and Life Savers are given administrative approval.

SUPER BOWL PARTY

AT

CITY ON A HILL

JANUARY 26
4:30-END OF GAME

BRING A SNACK OR DESSERT TO SHARE...COFFEE, PUNCH, AND SODA WILL BE PROVIDED.

City on a Hill

WE WILL ALSO COLLECT CANNED GOODS...BRING A FEW WITH YOU, AND WE WILL GET THEM TO CORNERSTONE'S FOOD PANTRY.

AHS suffers Macintosh infestation

Scores of squat, ugly boxes clog classrooms

Joe Hilgard, humor editor, but only by day

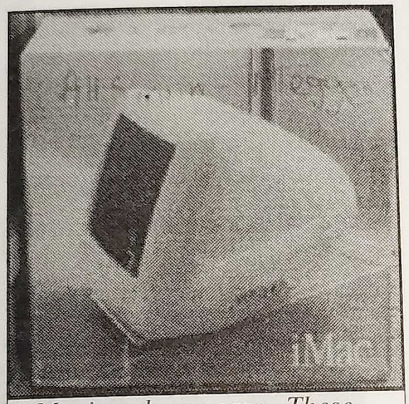
Macintoshes masquerading as computers have managed to infiltrate AHS. Estimates indicate as many as 150 Macintoshes may be hiding in classrooms and uncounted dozens scurrying through the air vents.

"I swear, I'm not a Macintosh sympathizer," said one official involved in the purchase (yes, *purchase*) of the Macintoshes. "Someone told me that those *things* are actual computers."

Names could not be released under threat of libel and a bloody nose.

According to an intensive five-year study by the American Council of Intensive Five-Year Studies, the Macintosh is not a computer at all, but a highly advanced form of cockroach.

These virulent critters lurk in dimly lit rooms, multiplying, mutating into new "flavors" such as strawberry or apple or blueberry. They emit a low whirring as they sit on tables and chew on phone lines.



A Macintosh egg case. These cubic structures contain baby Macintoshes, or "iMacs."

If you've met one, you've probably been threatened by one of these vermin. They hang out in dark rooms all night, drinking cheap electricity and shouting "UNKNOWN ERROR 132>" or "INSUFFICIENT ACCESS PRIVILEGES." I myself suspect them for the mysterious "car accident" in which my dog died.

Attempts to rid the school of the Macintosh infestation have only resulted in failure. The first attempt, made by an ordinary cockroach exterminator, came to a grisly end as the hapless exterminator was caught in the tangled wiring of a twenty-Mac network and subsequently starved to death.

"We can now hypothesize that normal toxins used for roach extermination are too feeble to kill Macintoshes. I think the only way we can kill them is to throw them out of fourth-story windows," said Ajax Roach Exterminator Earl Paulding.

"Listen, buddy, just because I'm a roach exterminator doesn't mean I'm illiterate," he added.

Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates warns that when he buys America, such Macintosh infestations will not be tolerated, and all violators will have Windows injected directly into their bloodstreams. He also offered that everyone should buy an X-Box, the nation's most powerful videogaming console that breaks six months after you buy it and costs $150 to repair by Microsoft employees.

Evil armies of Macs lurk in one of their breeding warrens, or "tech labs."

Quarter-full bottle of Pepsi Blue celebrates two months in stairwell

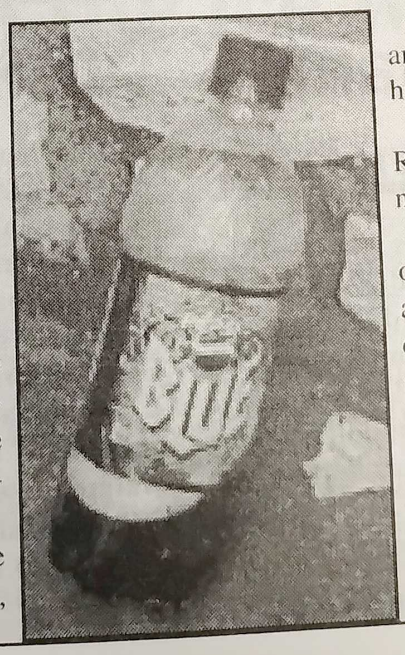
Joe Hilgard, humor editor, but only by day

The mostly-empty bottle of Pepsi Blue over by the Main building turns two months old today.

Scientists proved via specialized tests that this venerable specimen of soda still retains its carbonation weeks after its first opening. The tests include shaking up the bottle, twisting the cap off and listening for a "pssssh".

Despite its venerable age, the Pepsi bottle still manages to get out of the stairwell once in a while to participate in school life. Over the winter vacation, the bottle stayed on a bed of leaves an entire ten yards from the concrete pit where it claims residence.

"Every day as I cross the pit and climb those stairs, I see that bottle. It's like an old, old friend, and it always cheers me to see it," said one A humorist.



Pepsico Chairman and CEO Steven Reinemund expressed confusion about the bo not-quite-empty status.

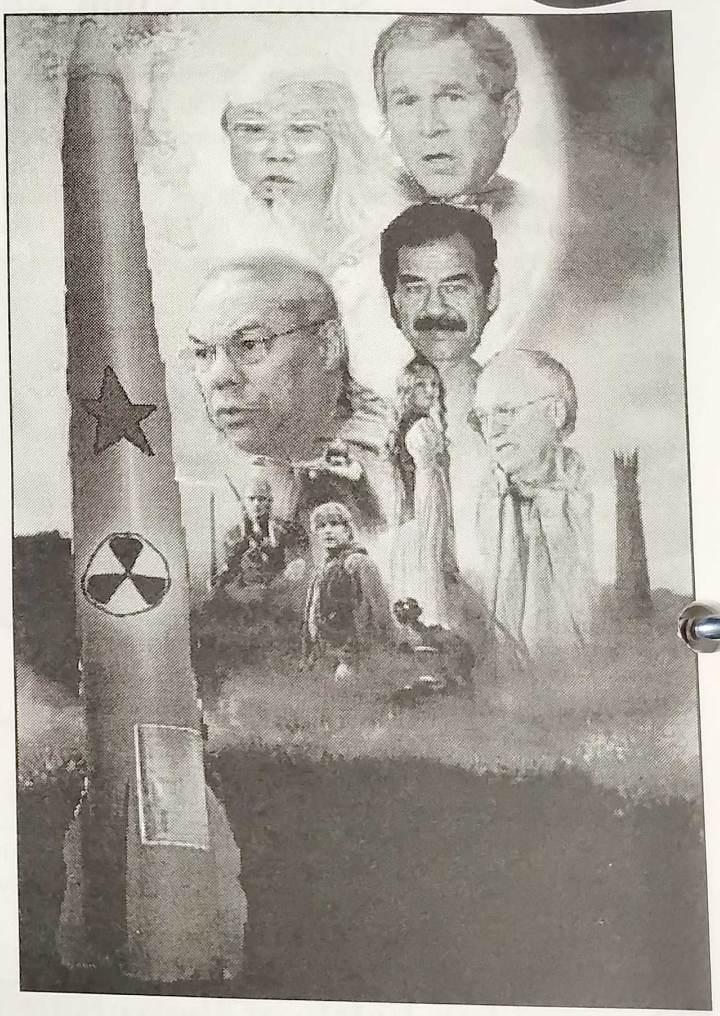
"Pepsi Blue is supposed to be, and I quot official pepsi website, 'a sonic flavor fusion of and cola' and 'a cola revolution.' Why, ther only part of this bottle consumed? With the nature of our economy, Pepsico investors d answers," he said.

"Britney Spears will be your love slave drink Pepsi Cola, the choice of the hip new tion!" he added.

REDBIRD WORD PRESENTS

LORD OF THE LEFT WING

Written and Produced by Jeff McDonald



An epic tale of good fighting the forces of evil. A tragic story of a forbidden love between a President and his UN Security Council. From the makers of *There's Something About Hillary* and *Dude, Where's My Ballot?* comes the harrowing saga of the band of friends who must leave the safety of Capital Hill and journey to the land of North Korea to take back the mythical ring of nuclear weapon production. Their leader, a young president trying to follow in his father's footsteps, is torn between his quest and his insatiable desire to fight Saddam, the evil wizard of Middle East.

The group is joined in their fight by a short, pale, hairless, creature named Dick Cheney. Although claiming to be a compassionate conservative, he is easily corrupted by the power of the energy lobbyists.

The travellers find themselves in a strange land where no one drives an SUV and there are many fewer McDonald's than usual. Will our heroes retrieve the atomic ring, or will it once again be swallowed by the Black Hole of Foreign Aid Money?

Lord of the Left Wing received glowing remarks from some of the industry's toughest critics, including Cuban president Fidel Castro.

"Endless speeches and lots of saber-rattling. Now this is fun for the whole family," he said, surrounded by his human shield wife and kids.

"This is the feel-good story of the year," he continued. "America hasn't seen a Communism scare this exciting since I had the bomb!"

Coming soon to a draft office near you.

RedBird Word names Outstanding Student

After reviewing countless applications, the RedBird Word staff would like to honor AHS student Thaddeus Applegate with the Outstanding Student Award for the month of January. Thad has shown tremendous initiative in his studies, spending last summer at Washington University. He has volunteered his time to help repaint old buildings in the area and has taken a stand for the elderly in his home town, leading a protest against rising drug costs. In the future, Thad says he will invest more of his time and money into his community. Congratulations, Thad!

News from the Police blotter

Thaddeus Applegate, 17, of Alton was arrested last Monday on vandalism charges after a security camera recorded him spraying graffiti on a local historic building. Applegate had previously been taken into custody last July after he was found trespassing on the campus of Washington University in St. Louis, allegedly attempting to break in to a female housing dormitory. He was later released.

Applegate's only other offense, shoplifting a large amount of caffeine pills and hard candy from an area Walgreens with the intent to distribute, was also dismissed. For his most recent charges, Applegate has been ordered to pay a $600 fine and participate in 20 hours of community service.

Redbird Rampage

RBW

January

New NBA shooters come right out of high school

Trish Holmes

Darius Miles, Kobe Bryant, Kevin Garnett and Eddy Curry all have one other thing in common besides their basketball skills. They entered the NBA draft right out of high school.

Should high school players be able to enter the draft without at least one year of college background? Maryland coach Gary Williams says, "High school players will only look at the money and not an education, which is a downfall for their future."

Take, for instance, LeBron James, a 6' 8" 240lb. senior from St. Vincent-St. Mary High School. He's definitely an outstanding, all around talented player who is expected to go straight to the NBA by many college coaches and sport announcers.

Is he mentally and physically healthy enough for the big league? Does he have what it takes to make it? Who is to judge or make his decision?

Statistics show that there are about 100,000 high school basketball players every year, but only 19 out of that 100,000 enter the draft. Twenty-one high school players have officially pressed their luck and have entered the draft. Seventeen of those players have been successful.

Many people think that being drafted out of high school has only been a recent concern of this time period, yet actually the first high school player to be drafted was Tony Kapper in 1947. His career only lasted one season.

"LeBron James is a great player and I hope he does well in whatever he decides to do," said freshman Eric Snipes. The perks of being a top notch talent are the sometimes legal incentives that one receives. James recently received a $50,000 Hummer H2. His mother claims that she merely took out a bank loan to afford the car.

Illegal incentives have plagued the NBA and other professional sports. Chris Webber, a former Michigan basketball star and current Sacramento King, has been accused of accepting illegal bribes while in college. The University of Michigan's reputation has been tarnished by these accusations.

Kevin Garnett of the Minnesota Timberwolves was very heavily criticized about his decision. He played in the NBA right out of high school. After two seasons of his career he was already demanding more money. He signed a $126 million contract with Minnesota.

Could this be a reason why many people are upset with the NBA and young people joining the league? Are they not mature enough for this profession at a young age?

Well, the NBA is making it a lot easier for high school players to be drafted if they are good enough. In May 2002 the NCAA announced a new rule allowing high school players to try for the NBA Draft while allowing them to retain their college eligibility.

"It is good to have a goal for your future, but you should always have something to fall back on," said freshman Michael Holmes.

Players take to the ice with big hopes

Blake Schrumpf, sports editor

The Alton High ice hockey team has had great success thus far in their season. They've beaten every team in the league at least once. The Redbirds are looking forward to the last part of the season, the playoffs.

Along with their great record of 9-2-2 comes injuries. Team Captain Austin Luster has suffered from a shoulder injury for the majority of the season. Luster was hit hard by. O'Fallon and had to leave the game. The Redbirds reacted by scoring 6 goals and winning 6-1.

Currently, the Redbirds have the least goals against in the league.

"We are finally playing as a team," said Robert Diaz.

Tommy Lester is currently Alton's point leader with 12 goals and 20 assists. Alton's leading scorer is Lance Martin. Martin has netted 14 goals. Mart and Lester have been very big assets to the succes of the Redbirds.

"I think we've come together as a team and we are playing well. If we keep it up we wil easily wint the chamionship this year," said Nick Wittman.

The hockey season has been very promising for us and hopefully we will not give.

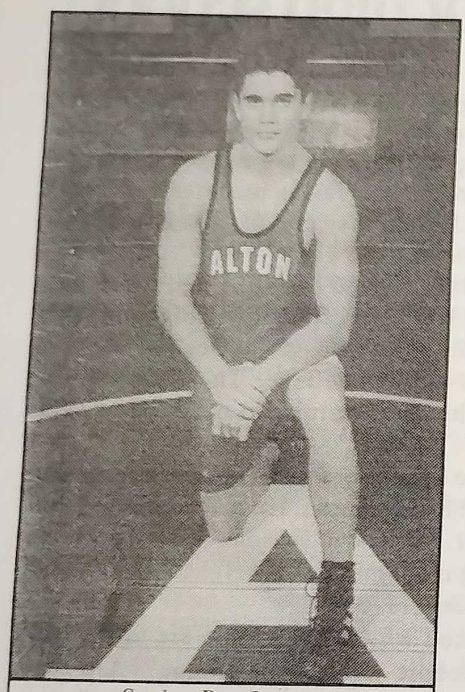
"We are looking forward to destroying Belleville East and Granite City in the playoffs," said Jason Plunk.

The Redbirds are awaiting the playoffs with high expectations of winning the championship.

Laux still grappling for an undefeated record

Anthony Gater, senior editor

Ben Laux figures an undefeated season is the way he wants to remember his senior year. Laux has been to the state wrestling tournament every year except his freshman year, but feels he would be selling himself short if that was his only goal.



Senior Ben Laux

"I truly want to finish first this year, and to do that, I need to stay undefeated." Staying undefeated is well in his grasp. Laux has been slaughtering competition in his weight class. He has won several outstanding wrestling awards at every tournament the Redbirds have attended.

Competition around the area knows there is only one way to state, and that's through Laux's arms. Laux's wrestling career is not an overnight success, though. Laux has been an Alton grappler since he was knee high. He competed for the Little Redbirds before high school.

"When I was young, I always dreamed of going to state. Every time I wrestle I feel I'm only one headlock away from being the state champion, so I'm squeezing the fight out of all my opponents."

Most successful athletes are cocky and not true team players, but not Laux. Even though losing doesn't seem likely for Laux this season his efforts in practice have also been noteworthy.

When asked Laux's determination and work ethic, Coach Hudson responded with, "Ben is a great example for the program. A lot of younger guys look up to him. Ben comes and works in the off-season and he pushes himself. The difference in Ben Laux this year is that he is a lot stronger, and his floor work is a lot better."

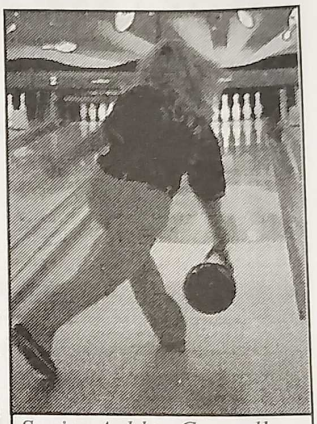
Laux's true love is wrestling, but he has a passion for football as well. Many feel his wrestling and football work compliment each other. Laux led the Alton Redbird football team to a consecutive playoff berths and a glorious victory over the East St. Louis Flyers, who hadn't been beaten by the Redbirds in 26 years.

Ben Laux is also a tremendous student, which is why he is struggling with choosing a college. Laux's main choices are Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and McKendree College, both of which have accepted him.

AHS Lady Redbirds' Bowling team fly by Lady Panthers

Sarah Cleaves, photographer

January 8, O'Fallon, an undefeated team, came to Bowl Haven Lanes thinking they were going to pocket an easy win. In fact they were handed the biggest upset of their season. The Lady Redbirds were determined to do their best to defeat, the undefeated O'Fallon Panthers. Senior Ashley Cox rolled one of her best series - a 700.


Senior Ashley Cox rolls for Alton.

"I'm really proud of our team, and with this win we are now in third place in the Southwestern Conference," stated Cox.

The combined effort of the four varsity players - Alicia Clayton, Laura Cope, Sarah Cleaves and Ashley Cox - helped the girls pull off the toughest win of the season and bring them one more step toward the conference title.

"I am very proud of them. They knew what they had to do, and they did it," commented Coach Jeff Woszczynsk.

With the conference, sectionals and the state tournament approaching quickly, the girls are playing their best with the hope to take two titles and take a trip upstate to Rockford, IL. The girls know what it takes to make it to state, and they are practicing around the clock to go one last time for the seniors.

From left: Cope, Cleaves, Cox, and Clayton after the biggest win of their season.

Varsity Girls Bowling Schedule

2/05 - Conference Tournament (TBA) at 3:45
2/08 - IHSA Sectional Tournament (Bowl Haven Lanes) at 3:45
2/14 - State Tournament (Rockford, IIllinois)
2/15 - State Tournament (Rockford, Illinois)

"I like big butts and I cannot lie"*

Christina Sidwell

Plastic surgery is on the rise, not only in Hollywood, but also among everyday Americans. Many men and women have gone far and beyond for that perfect look, from liposuction to Botox, but the latest craze has come as a shock to many. What Pamela Lee Anderson did for breast augmentations in the 1990's, Jennifer Lopez has done for buttocks implants in the millennium.

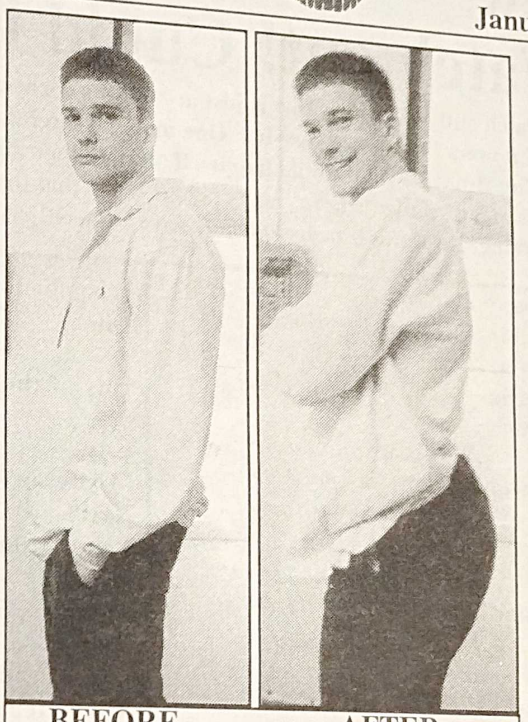
"I think it's crazy," said AHS senior Corliss James, "but if someone wants to do it, then that is their choice."

Buttocks implants are a cultural phenomenon that has moved northward. In the past, these implants have been very popular in South America, where Brazilian women want to have very round, curvaceous buttocks. It was not until recently that this concept was introduced in America, and there are still very few surgeons who will perform these implants.

Both men and women are looking to this procedure to get the shape that they have always wanted. It is ideal for those who cannot seem to fill out their jeans regardless of the number of squats they do or the number of hours they spend on the Stairmaster. It gives them a chance to enhance what Mother Nature gave them.

At about $10,000 for the implants, this procedure is not cheap. However, according to New York City surgeon, Dr. Bruce Nadler, it is not just for the rich and famous. This surgery can be financed in the same manner you would a car.

Although the surgery seems appealing and is easier to get with payment plans, there are still many risks involved and often times many difficulties getting the desired results. The recovery period alone can last up to six weeks.



BEFORE AFTER

photos by Erin Hill and Kristin Hammond

"I think that it sounds nice, but I wouldn't do it because I would be afraid that they could rupture or something from sitting too long," said senior Beth Lawson.

Complications with buttocks implants include infection, displacement, bleeding, discomfort and other sensory problems.

**EDITOR'S NOTE: This headline was taken from a popular song of the early 90s by Sir Mix-a-lot. This is a popular song among many students.*

Students embrace popular winter trends

Katie Gineris

Watch out, AHS! There are a lot of new trends and styles coming your way! Why not pick up a magazine and get looking for your favorite style, whether it is the grunge, punk look or the Victorian lace look?

During this winter season there are a lot of items making their way into the hot fashion scene. Bucket hats and scarves are an efficient way to stay warm and still make you look good. Along with scarves and hats, faux fur coats are popular. They are a must-have for this season. Another must-have for staying warm and still making yourself look good is a leather jacket. They accent any outfit.

If anyone is looking for the conservative, more office-like look, go for the pinstripe pants and a classic white button-down shirt. A coat for that certain outfit would be a sleek black blazer. Lace is extremely popular this season. It looks elegant and professional on anyone. A few accessories that are very important which complete these outfits are pointy-toed boots, antique-looking jewelry, and big belts. One more trendy item for the winter season is a cowl-neck sweater.

One trend that has been here for a while is ties. People can go for the punk Avril Lavign look with ties around their necks or use the ties as belts. A lot of people around the AHS campus make both of these styles look good.

Watch out! Cupid is coming!

Watch out! Valentine's Day is just around the corner. The traditional and timeless gift of flowers is always a sure bet. One must be careful, however. Every flower has a meaning. Imagine what would happen if one told their significant other that they were jealous and discontented. Not many people know that the gift of a marigold means the same thing! Read this list carefully and save yourself!

Azalea: *temperance*
Bachelor's Buttons: *celibacy*
Begonia: *beware*
Camellias~ Red: *unpretentious excellence*
~White: *exquisite loveliness*
Carnations~ Red: *my poor heart*
~Pink: *I'll never forget you.*
~Yellow: *disdain*
~White: *sweet and lovely*
Chrysanthemum~ Red: *I love you*
~White: *truth*
~Yellow: *slighted love*
Crocus: *abuse not*
Spring: *youthful gladness*
Cyclamen: *diffidence*
Daffodils: *regard*
Dahlia: *changeable*
Daisy: *innocence*
Forget-me-not: *constant love*
French Marigold: *jealousy, discontent*
Gladiolus: *I'm really sincere*
Hibiscus: *rare beauty*
Hyacinth: *sporting*
~White: *discreet loveliness*
Hydrangea: *Thank you for understanding*
Iris: communication; *faith; hope*
Lilac~ ~Purple: *first love*
~White: *youthful innocence*
Lily of the Valley: *increased happiness*
Lily~ White: *purity*
Mistletoe: *kiss me*
Narcissus: *ego*
Nasturtium: *loyalty*
Orchid: *love; beauty; refinement*
Pansies: *consideration*
Peony: *bashfulness*
Ranunculus: *radiant charm*
Rhododendron: *danger*
Roses~ Red: *love*
~Yellow: *friendship*
~Pink: *young love, romance, first love*
~White: *pure, innocence*
Snapdragon: *presumption*
Sweet William: *bravery*
Tiger Flower: *befriend me friend*
Tuberosa: *illicit pleasures*
Tulip~ Red: *declaration of love*
~Yellow: *unrequited love*
~Violet: *modesty*
~Blue: *faithful devotion*

Wordfind

Y	E	R	A	U	Q	S	S	E	M	I	T
A	H	T	A	H	S	N	O	W	M	A	N
D	T	A	O	C	F	G	F	I	S	S	E
W	E	M	E	I	N	Y	R	N	W	R	W
O	L	F	N	I	T	N	A	T	E	I	Y
N	W	A	K	R	T	T	C	E	A	L	E
S	L	R	A	R	W	U	S	R	T	U	A
S	D	P	N	A	G	L	O	V	E	S	R
F	I	R	E	P	L	A	C	E	R	W	F
S	K	N	O	I	T	U	L	O	S	E	R
R	N	O	I	S	E	M	A	K	E	R	S
P	I	T	T	E	F	N	O	C	H	X	G
B	G	Z	S	K	R	O	W	E	R	I	F

Snow day
Winter
Fireplace
Coat
Gloves
Hat
Resolution
Noisemakers
Party
Snowman
Dr. King
Finals
Sweaters
Scarf
New Year
Confetti
Fireworks
Times Square

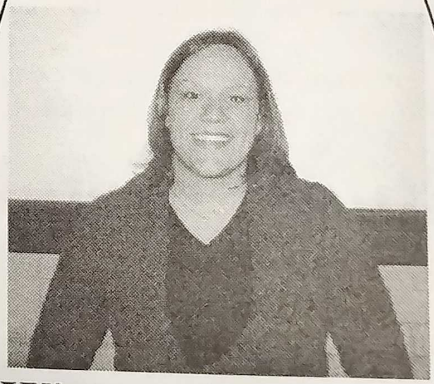
Aquarius

for more information: http://www.astrology-online.com/persn.html

People whose birthdays lie between January 21 and February 19 are Aquarians. Also called the water carriers, Aquarians tend to be friendly, humanitarian, honest, loyal, original, inventive, independent and intellectual. They can also be perverse, unpredictable, unemotional and detached. Aquarians like fighting for causes, planning for the future, reminiscing, having fun and building friendships. They dislike unsatisfied promises, being lonely, ordinary routines, imitations and idealistic.

RedBird random award of the month

Coolest job prior to teaching



Winner: Ms. Keller
(Mrs. Holthaus)

Costume character at Disney World in Orlando, Florida